

SENATE BILL 623
By Wilder

AN ACT to name the Hurricane Creek Bridge on U.S. 64 in
Waynesboro the "B.E. Edwards Memorial Bridge" .

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary public servants who contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late B.E. Edwards, who, from very meager beginnings and with no formal education, became a very successful and highly respected businessman in the Waynesboro and Wayne County community; and

WHEREAS, a native of Wayne County hailing from the Topsy community, Mr. Edwards proudly served his country during World War II and was a disabled American veteran serving in the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, during his life Mr. Edwards worked with purpose and conviction as an advocate for underprivileged children, assisting many through mentoring into respectable and productive citizens and he personally funded two scholarships for Wayne County Youth; and

WHEREAS, a thoughtful gentleman and a visionary philanthropist, the late Mr. Edwards donated a parcel of land valued at over \$200,000 for the County Library, also donated his \$30,000 collection of Indian Arrowheads to the Library, and donated his farm, valued at \$350,000, to the University of Tennessee Institute for Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, throughout all his endeavors, Mr. Edwards was a person of impeccable morals and irreproachable integrity, and he worked assiduously to establish a brighter future for his fellow citizens of Waynesboro and Wayne County; and

WHEREAS, the Waynesboro City Commission has petitioned this body to name the Hurricane Creek Bridge in honor of Mr. Edwards to permanently commemorate both his

bountiful life of purpose and commitment and his long and distinguished record of community service; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Hurricane Creek Bridge on U.S. 64 in Waynesboro is hereby designated the "B.E. Edwards Memorial Bridge" as a lasting tribute to a truly remarkable businessman and even finer human being.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the Hurricane Creek Bridge described in Section 1 as the "B.E. Edwards Memorial Bridge".

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5.

(1) This act shall become operative only if the City of Waynesboro, Tennessee either remits the estimated cost of the erection of such signs to the department of transportation within one (1) year of the effective date of this act or manufactures such signs in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2). The City of Waynesboro shall make such payment prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the City of Waynesboro within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, the City of Waynesboro shall remit an amount equal to the difference in such costs to the department within thirty (30) days of receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

(2) The City of Waynesboro may manufacture and erect such signs provided that such signs are manufactured and erected pursuant to state and federal guidelines and approved by the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.